

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHIRLEY
MILLER KAY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Shirley Miller Kay's 100th birthday. Ms. Miller Kay has served as a symbol of women's empowerment throughout her life and holds the great distinction of being the first female from Syracuse to enlist in the United States Navy.

Shirley Miller Kay was born in Syracuse, New York in 1918 to a family with deep Central New York roots. Her father owned a tailoring and furring business, which Shirley assisted with upon graduating from Nottingham High School. Additionally, she was an athlete and natural leader, serving as president of her high school's drama club.

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt created the Women's United States Naval Reserve, better known as WAVES. The program arrived in Syracuse in 1943 and Shirley quickly applied to be a part of the service. When she was approved for WAVES a few weeks later, Shirley learned from the commanding officer that she was the first recruit accepted from the Syracuse recruiting station. Upon receiving her rank of apprentice seaman, she made history by becoming the first female Syracusan enlisted in the Navy.

Shirley deployed for basic training in Iowa during April of 1943, where she took specialized courses to learn skills such as parachute rigging. She completed basic training and was officially a member of the Navy Reserves. Shirley used her opportunity with the Navy Reserves to advocate for equal pay for female members of the Navy, a movement which was ultimately successful. After World War II, Shirley moved to Maryland and continued her success in a number of professional jobs. She worked as a Counseling Manager at the University of Maryland, and then helped run a local real estate company. She lived in Maryland for 15 years before returning home to Central New York where she has resided since.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the remarkable life of Shirley Miller Kay. She continues to live a life exemplary of equality and service, two values that all Americans should strive to hold themselves to. I thank Shirley, as well as all our veterans, for their courage and dedication to our great nation.

HONORING SCOTT AND TARA
SMALSTIG

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Scott and Tara Smalstig for their contribution to our state and their community.

The Smalstigs are an institution in Delaware County and have spent their lives devoted to improving their community. I have known Scott and Tara for over 20 years, as they set Jennifer and me up on a blind date in Muncie. Scott is an executive at Meridian Health Services and spends his free time giving back to the community and coaching youth sports. Tara is an attorney at a law firm in Muncie and is continually recognized for excellence in the legal profession. She has also spent years serving on local boards and volunteering for community organizations. Without a doubt, Delaware County is better off today because of their extraordinary leadership and service.

This may go without saying, but the Smalstigs were among my earliest and most vocal supporters. I would like to thank them for their friendship and support of my work in Congress. The Messer family cherishes the time we get to spend with them, and we wish them all the best in whatever God has planned for their family.

RECOGNIZING RURAL HOSPITAL
WEEK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rural Hospital Week and in support of the critical role rural hospitals, and the health care professionals that choose to serve rural communities, play in our health care system. Roughly 1 in 5 Americans live in rural areas, and often, hospitals are one of the main economic drivers of their communities. In fact, hospitals account for 14 percent of total rural employment nationwide. In this way, rural hospitals keep not just their patients healthy, but the economies of their local communities as well.

Despite the important role that hospitals play in rural America, a disturbing trend of closures threatens the availability of care for millions of rural Americans. According to a study published by the GAO in August of this year, 64 rural hospitals closed between 2013 and 2017. This rate of closure is more than double that of the previous 5-year period, and accounts for roughly 3 percent of all rural hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and the rest of our colleagues will join me in celebrating Rural Hospital Week, as well as the talented health care professionals and hospitals that make high quality care possible. I hope you will also join me in seeking solutions that maintain the availability of this high-quality care for all Americans.

CONGRATULATING DR. GENNARO
R. PIRAINO, JR.

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Dr. Gennaro R. Piraino,

Jr., for his selection as the 2019 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year.

A Western Pennsylvania native, Gennaro earned his Doctor of Education in Administrative and Policy Studies at the University of Pittsburgh and serves as the Superintendent of Schools for the Franklin Regional School District.

A leader in both the educational and local communities, Gennaro has served on Pennsylvania's School Safety and Security Committee since June of 2018 and has been a major advocate in sculpting a well-rounded academic environment for students to flourish.

He is also an active member on various boards of local leadership groups, including but not limited to, the Board of Directors for the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, the Tri-State Study Council's Executive Board, and the Fanklin Regional Panther Foundation.

At the same time, Gennaro's focus on building strong, dynamic young leaders is unmatched. Recognizing that a student's success extends beyond the classroom, Gennaro has been instrumental in promoting students' personal and professional development by creating and expanding educational programs and partnerships.

The Superintendent of the Year award is given to those who exemplify leadership in learning, professionalism, communications skills, and involvement in the community. The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators could not have chosen a better beneficiary. Gennaro's commitment to improving opportunities for students, empowering them to dream big and encouraging them to pursue excellence in all aspects of life, rightfully deserves this award. Congratulations again, Gennaro, on receiving this prestigious award.

You have made the people of Western Pennsylvania incredibly proud.

CONGRATULATING MARCUS SMITH
ON WINNING HIS CLASS 1A GOLF
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marcus Smith, from Winnebago High School, for earning the Class 1A title for the Illinois State Championship in golf.

I would like to recognize Mr. Smith for his tremendous accomplishment. His dedication and passion for golf meant that he was determined to win gold. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to be awarded such a title. He is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Winnebago throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Marcus Smith on his title, and I join the rest of the community in wishing him every success in the future.